



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

Raised Bill No. 6157

LCO No. 2371

* _____HB06157ENVFIN031011_____*

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING STATE FORESTRY PROGRAMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 23-20 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall administer
4 the statutes relating to forestry and the protection of forests. The
5 commissioner may: [employ] (1) Employ such field and office
6 assistants as may be necessary for the execution of his or her duties, [. The commissioner may,] (2) from time to time, publish the forestry
7 laws of the state and other literature of general interest and practical
8 value pertaining to forestry, [. The commissioner may] (3) enter into
9 cooperation with departments of the federal government for the
10 promotion of forest resource management and protection within the
11 state, [. The commissioner may,] and (4) with the assistance of the State
12 Forester, develop and administer plans for the protection and
13 management of publicly owned woodlands. Such plans shall include,
14 but not be limited to, proposals for the establishment of forest
15 plantations and the marketing of forest products.
16

17 **(b)** Not later than January 10, 2010, the commissioner shall apply to
 18 have publicly owned woodlands or products from such woodlands
 19 certified or licensed under one or more of the following, provided the
 20 commissioner uses private funding from gifts, donations or bequests,
 21 as authorized in this section, for the cost of all such applications: (1)
 22 The Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program, (2) the American Tree
 23 Farm System, (3) the Canadian Standards Association's Sustainable
 24 Management System Standards, (4) the Finnish Standard, (5) the Forest
 25 Stewardship Council, (6) the Pan-European Forest Certification
 26 Program, (7) the Swedish Standards, (8) the United Kingdom
 27 Woodland Assurance Scheme, (9) the Smart Wood Program, as
 28 administered by the Rainforest Alliance, or (10) any other programs
 29 deemed necessary, as determined by the commissioner. The
 30 commissioner shall implement any sustainable forestry practice
 31 necessary for such certification or licensure. The commissioner may
 32 accept, on behalf of the Department of Environmental Protection, any
 33 gifts, donations or bequests for the purposes of applying for and
 34 obtaining such certification or licensure.

35 **(c) (1)** The commissioner may harvest forest products from
 36 woodlands owned by the state and take such other measures as [he or
 37 she] the commissioner deems necessary for [their] the efficient
 38 management and protection [,] of such woodlands and may sell wood,
 39 timber and other products from any state woodlands whenever [he or
 40 she] the commissioner deems such sales desirable and may develop
 41 recreational facilities in the woodlands managed by the Department of
 42 Environmental Protection. The commissioner shall charge no less than
 43 ten dollars per cord for any such wood or timber sold as fuel.

44 **(2)** There is established a separate, nonlapsing account within the
 45 General Fund to be known as the "timber harvesting revolving
 46 account". Proceeds from the harvest of timber shall be deposited in
 47 such account. The commissioner may use moneys in such account for
 48 the purpose of developing forest management plans to guide the
 49 harvest of timber from woodlands and for all reasonable direct

50 expenses relating to the administration and operation of such plans.
 51 The commissioner may accept, on behalf of the Department of
 52 Environmental Protection, any gifts, donations or bequests for the
 53 purposes of depositing such funds into the timber harvesting
 54 revolving account. The account shall not exceed one hundred
 55 thousand dollars. Any remaining proceeds shall be deposited in the
 56 General Fund.

57 (d) The commissioner may rent state forest property and buildings
 58 thereon under his or her jurisdiction for a period not exceeding
 59 twenty-five years, provided any lease for such property and building
 60 for a term of more than ten years shall be subject to the review and
 61 approval of the State Properties Review Board. The proceeds of such
 62 sales, rentals and any receipts resulting from management of the state
 63 forests, or from reimbursements from other state departments or state
 64 institutions, shall be deposited in the General Fund in accordance with
 65 the provisions of section 4-32. Expenditures incurred by the
 66 commissioner for the protection, management and development of the
 67 forests, the preparation and marketing of forest products and the
 68 acquisition of land for the extension and completion of the state forests
 69 as provided in section 23-21 may be paid with moneys appropriated
 70 from the General Fund.

71 (e) The provisions of this section shall not apply to land owned or
 72 managed by the state on which forest resource management measures
 73 may be restricted by deed, statute, or incompatible use. As used in this
 74 section, woodland means land owned or managed by a state agency
 75 and stocked with forest tree species not less than six hundred stems
 76 per acre and at least one year old.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	from passage	23-20
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Joint Favorable C/R

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